

households interviewed to be food insecure, PHR called "the cuts against individuals who are in the U.S. legally and who pay taxes. . . a serious human rights violation." Legal immigrant households were ten times more likely than the general population to suffer from severe hunger and one-third of immigrant households surveyed reported moderate or severe hunger caused by a lack of sufficient resources.

A similar study by the California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) echoes these findings, but also documents an "alarmingly high rate of hunger among children in legal immigrant households where food stamps have been cut." Immigrant households in Los Angeles that lost benefits were 30% more likely to experience "food insecurity with extreme hunger" than those that did not. In San Francisco, this number jumped to 173%, making immigrants affected by PRWORA almost twice as likely to be suffering from extreme hunger than an unaffected group. Moreover, in both cities, immigrant households with children which had lost food stamps were almost two-thirds more likely to experience serious food problems than similar households that retained complete benefits.

Although both studies were conducted prior to the Agricultural Act, CFPA's findings were shocking even though California exercised its option—unlike most states—to fill the gap with state funds for the same population that now has regained eligibility. Without further legislation, marked improvements of this nature in the future are unlikely because most of those benefiting from the restoration are immigrant children living in "mixed" households where "eligible" individuals live with others who are not. In Texas alone, there are 65,396 "mixed" households with approximately 9,000 legal immigrant and 145,000 citizen children. Although these children can again collect food stamps, the total resources available to the family remain low because their parents still cannot.

#### IS "FAIRNESS" IN THE FUTURE?

The Fairness to Legal Immigrants Act of 1999, recently introduced in the Senate, proposes the most extensive restoration to date and offers the first substantive opportunity to right the wrongs done to legal immigrants by PRWORA. If approved, this bill would restore food stamps to all eligible "before" immigrants and those otherwise qualified "after" immigrants who suffer domestic abuse. It would also allow states to cover all pregnant legal immigrant women and children who entered after August 22, 1996 under Medicaid and restore many health and SSI disability benefits for certain immigrants from both the "before" and "after" groups. This bill represents a significant step towards rectifying several of the most controversial outcomes of welfare reform by protecting dependent children, addressing the mixed household problem and providing essential food assistance to many needy legal immigrant families. Wholehearted support by this Congress would send a clear message to law-abiding, taxpaying immigrants that they need not fear, that they need not go hungry and that they will not be abandoned in their times of need.

#### HONORING ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS

##### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 1999*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the achievements of a

group of young people who have distinguished themselves as some of the brightest in the world. On July 6, school and local officials, friends, and family, gathered to honor students from Mason Middle School and Crary Middle School, both located in Waterford, Michigan, for their success in the Odyssey of the Mind world competition, recently held in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Students from Mason Middle School placed fifth out of 58 teams in the vehicle problem category, designing a vehicle that would travel through three countries, without touching the ground, and setting off a specific event upon entering the country. Through the use of superior problem solving skills, the Mason team created a vehicle that would travel through China, Egypt, and the United States. In addition to placing fifth, the team won the Ranatra Fusca Award, the competition's highest honor for creativity.

The Mason team includes Alysse Cohen, Robert Dziurda, Tamara Haynes, Caitlin Johnson, Megan Long, and Elizabeth McGregor. Their coaches are Suzy Cohen and Robin McGregor.

Students from Crary Middle School placed sixth out of 53 teams in the environmental challenge category, creating a series of possible habitats for an animal following the destruction of the creature's original habitat, with the judges given the ability to randomly poison one of the habitats.

The Crary team includes Alex Caryl, Eric Chapman, Steve Grabowski, Brad Howell, and Jeff Ritter. The coaches were Angela and Tom Chapman.

Odyssey of the Mind teams provide a large opportunity for some of country's brightest young people to exercise their cognitive and problem-solving skills. To compete in a world competition, a team must place first in the state in their category. It is rare for more than one team from the same school district, and even more rare for them both to perform as highly as Mason and Crary has done.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when the future of our young adults is a constant concern, I am very happy to honor these students and the parents who have taken time out of their schedules to coach the teams. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Mason and Crary Middle Schools.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF TAMARAC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

##### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 1999*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the selection of Tamarac Elementary as a "National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence." It is both an honor and a privilege for me to recognize this exemplary school for receiving such a distinguished award.

Since 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program has celebrated many of America's most successful schools. A Blue Ribbon symbol denotes a level of educational proficiency recognized by parents and students in thousands of communities. Superior teaching, dedicated staff, and a caring environment for students are a few reasons why Tamarac Elementary

has been chosen for such an exclusive award after a rigorous selection process.

Tamarac Elementary School was built in 1973 and is the only school in the city of Tamarac, Florida. The school's extraordinary devotion to educating the leaders of the 21st century is illustrated best by its mission statement: "The mission of Tamarac Elementary is to establish an educational environment where children reach their highest potential intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically through a total commitment of school, home, and community." Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues will agree with me when I say that this mission statement demonstrates noble goals—goals which all schools should strive to fulfill.

Tamarac Elementary has taken the Blue Ribbon Challenge and triumphed with flying colors. I wish to congratulate Principal Kathleen Goldstein and her devoted staff for this well deserved honor. This is truly an accomplishment that the entire Tamarac community can be proud of.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 1999*

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am regretfully absent and missed 3 votes on July 12, 1999. The first vote was on the Journal and the rest were under suspension of the rules. I wish to include in the RECORD my statement as to how I would have voted had I been present.

On rollcall vote No. 277, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 278, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 279, I would have voted "aye."

#### TRIBUTE TO BRIAN BLAHA

##### HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 1999*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding student from my district. Brian Blaha, a student from Parkway Central High School, set his sights high, and as a result, he has been named one of the 20 finalists in the 31st United States National Chemistry Olympiad.

Approximately 10,000 chemistry students nationwide competed in a series of qualifying events, organized by the American Chemical Society, for the opportunity to represent the United States. The competition included laboratory and written examinations, which covered topics typically found in third-year college curricula.

I would also like to recognize Brian's chemistry teacher Mr. Mark Schuermann whose dedication and excellence in teaching has aided in the success of his students. The achievements of Brian Blaha are an impressive reflection on his teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to recognize this extraordinary student for his achievements. Brian Blaha's success is a true reflection on not only his drive and determination, but also on the parents, family members,